

VZCZCXRO4576
PP RUEHROV
DE RUEHRB #1513 2641601
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 211601Z SEP 07
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7470
INFO RUEHXK/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE
RUEHCL/AMCONSUL CASABLANCA 3525
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0727

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 001513

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/21/2017

TAGS: PREL UNGA MO

SUBJECT: MOROCCO ON U.S. PRIORITIES FOR THE 62ND UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REF: A. STATE 130775
1B. RABAT 1441

Classified by Polcouns Craig Karp for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Drawing from ref A, Polcouns provided MFA IO Chief (A/S equivalent) Nasser Bourita an overview of U.S. priorities for the upcoming UN General Assembly session during a September 18 meeting. Bourita reacted to several points in the presentation:

-- On Iraq, he noted Morocco's consistent support for the Iraqi government and its hope that Iraqi national unity will be strengthened;

-- On the Middle East, he asserted that Morocco has been working quietly to convince fellow members of the Arab Group that repetitive and "inflated" UNGA resolutions on the Arab-Israeli dispute were counterproductive. He noted a trend toward decreasing international support for such resolutions - "Europe and most of Latin America no longer vote for these resolutions," he observed;

-- On Kosovo, he reminded us that Morocco has contributed troops to the peacekeeping contingent there;

-- On Human Rights, Bourita said that Morocco would submit a statement calling on member states to recognize the political and legal import of the Universal Declaration on the 60th anniversary of its passage. Morocco was looking at suggestions on how the declaration could be "enriched" by additional (unspecified) commitments on rights;

-- On UN reform, he asserted that Morocco was supportive but "for us it is less technical and more political... we need your political vision... there should be an opportunity to reflect on the process and consider what our ultimate objective should be." Reform should not become a perennial agenda item, he concluded.

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